

Proclamation 4717 of January 23, 1980

Red Cross Month, 1980

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For nearly a century now, the American Red Cross has been an expression of the brotherhood of man. Its humanitarian efforts transcend not only geographical boundaries but also those of political ideology. This past year our Red Cross could be found at work among the hundreds of thousands of Cambodians who sought refuge from hunger and disease in Thai refugee camps. Similarly, it provided aid, through the International Red Cross, to the civilian population of strife-torn Nicaragua and it brought assistance to the "boat people" of Southeast Asia.

Here at home, the Red Cross mobilized a vast relief program along the Gulf Coast to help the thousands of our fellow citizens whose homes were destroyed or damaged by a series of hurricanes. In so doing it strained its financial resources, expending in a three-month period a budget meant to last for a year.

In addition to easing the suffering of disaster victims, the Red Cross provides more than one-half of our need for blood; teaches us first aid, water safety, and proper care of the ill and injured; and comes to the aid of the men and women in our armed forces and of veterans and their families.

The month of March is traditionally observed as Red Cross Month. It is a time to honor those who make this precious humanitarian work possible: the Red Cross volunteer, our neighbor.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America and Honorary Chairman of the American National Red Cross, do hereby designate March 1980 as Red Cross Month. I urge all Americans to "Help Keep Red Cross Ready" by giving generous support to their local Red Cross Chapter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourth.

JIMMY CARTER

Editorial Note: The President's memorandum dated Jan. 23, 1980, on Red Cross Month, is printed in the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents (vol. 16, p. 193).

Proclamation 4718 of January 28, 1980

Save Your Vision Week, 1980

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Good vision, like good health generally, contributes much to the enjoyment of life. Our ability to see affects how we learn, how we work and play, how

we relate to others, and how well we are able to function in an increasingly complex society. Yet most people take good eyesight for granted. Just as we have come to recognize the need to take a more active role in maintaining the health of our bodies through diet and exercise, we should also take time to consider what can be done to take care of our eyes and to protect our vision. With proper care and attention, many of the serious eye problems that affect both young and old can be prevented.

Prevention of eye disease begins even before birth with adequate nutrition and prenatal care for the mother. During early childhood and later in life, periodic eye examinations can reveal certain potentially blinding eye conditions early enough to permit successful treatment. This is particularly true in families where there is a history of claucoma or in people who have diabetes. With professional eye care, it is even possible to restore sight to some people who are already blind or to help those with partial sight make the most of their remaining vision.

In addition to obtaining professional eye care when needed, each of us must take responsibility for protecting our eyes from injury. Protective eyeglasses or safety goggles should be worn in hazardous situations at work and while participating in many recreational activities. In the home, precautions should be taken to avoid injury to the eyes from household products, appliances, and cosmetics.

To increase awareness of the importance of good vision and the ways in which we can help to preserve our eyesight, the Congress, by joint resolution approved December 30, 1963 (77 Stat. 629, 36 U.S.C. 169a), has requested the President to proclaim the first week of March of each year as Save Your Vision Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning March 2, 1980, as Save Your Vision Week. I urge all Americans to participate in the observance of this period by pausing to consider what they can do to take care of their eyes. I invite vision care professionals, the communications media, educators, and all public and private organizations that support sight conservation to participate in activities that will teach Americans about eye care and encourage them to take steps to preserve and make the most of their vision.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred eighty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourth.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4719 of January 29, 1980

National Poison Prevention Week, 1980

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The past nineteen years have seen great progress in reducing accidental poisonings among children. Educational programs and the use of safety packaging have contributed considerably to the reduction in the number and severity of poisonings.